(c) IOC's subsidiary company in Mauritius plans to set up 8 more retail outlets in that country by December, 2005. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited have bid for a stake in CPC, which is being disinvested by Sri Lankan Government. This bid is towards the offer of CPC for 100 retail outlets and partial rights over one terminaling facility in Sri Lanka. Apart form these proposals, the public sector companies do not have, at present, any other target with regard to setting up fo retail outlets in foreign countries.

Review of subsidies in Oil and Gas Sectors

2271. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review the subsidies in Oil and Gas sectors as part of deregulation process; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Subsidies in the Oil and Gas Sector are kept under constant view of the Government. As per the current Government policy, the Government subsidy on subsidized PDS Kerosene and Domestic LPG is to be phased out over a period of 5 years effective from 1.4.2002, *i.e.* Government subsidy would be available upto 31.3.2007.

Gail's plan to review Dabhol Power Plant

2272. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has made proposals to invest and revive the Dabhol Power Plant;

(b) if so, the details of this investment;

(c) whether GAIL has any experience in this kind of power generation;

(d) to what extent would GAIL be moving away from its core competence by going in for a project like Dabhol Power Plant;

(e) whether there was any outside pressure on GAIL to take over this project; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGM) constituted by the Goverment has decided to restart the Dabhol Project and has suggested a restructuring package, the implementation of which would be carried out through the formation of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs). GAIL, along with NTPC and Indian lenders, has been advised to participate in the project SPV, NTPC, GAIL and Indian lenders would require to contribute to the tune of Rs. 500 crore each towards the equity of the project SPV. GAIL has been advised to seek approval of its Board about investment in the project.

(c) and (d) GAIL would undertake Gas/LNG related activites in the project, *viz.*, activities within its core competence.

(e) No, Sir, not to the best of the knowledge of the Ministry.

(f) Does not arise.

Decline in LPG demand

†2273. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for LPG has been rising in the country continuously;

(b) if so, the assessment with regard to its average annual growth rate during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that this demand is likely to come down in the year 2004-05;

(d) if so, the estimated growth rate of the demand; and

(e) the reasons for the decrease in the demand?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.